

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the final Office Action dated December 30, 2003. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejection set forth in the Office Action are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-19 are pending. Of these claims, Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 18 and 19 are presented for examination, and Claims 3-8 and 11-17 stand withdrawn as directed to non-elected species. Claims 1, 9 and 18 have been amended. Support for the claim changes can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added. Claims 1 and 9 are in independent form.

Applicant understands that non-elected Claims 3-8 and 11-17, although not addressed in the Office Action, remain withdrawn from consideration. M.P.E.P. 809.04. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide written confirmation of this in the next Office Action.

The Examiner has indicated (page 2 of Office Action dated May 20, 2003) that Claims 1 and 9 are generic. Applicant understands that, upon allowance of a generic claim, its withdrawn dependent claims will be rejoined. M.P.E.P. 809.04. At such time, Applicant will amend the withdrawn dependent claims as necessary to render them consistent with their base claims.

In view of the Examiner's remarks regarding the specification, a substitute specification is being submitted herewith. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,126,271 (*Terui*) in view of U.S. Patent 4,740,800 (*Kyoshima*). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

One feature of the invention as set forth in independent Claim 1 is a dummy electrode connecting portion formed of a second portion of a conductive layer, the dummy electrode connecting portion being conductively bonded to a dummy electrode to which electricity is not supplied. Independent Claim 9 recites features similar or identical to those of Claim 1.

By virtue of this feature, the dummy electrode connecting portion can form a reinforcement portion for reinforcing a junction between a power supplying connecting portion and a power supplying electrode by bonding the dummy electrode connecting portion to the dummy electrode so as to hold a tape-like frame member to a base.

Terui relates to a method for manufacturing a liquid jet recording head held in place by a vacuum using a single-point bonder with a particular tip construction and a head manufactured by this method. According to *Terui*, a bonding tool 15 having two grooves intersecting each other vertically is used to press bump 23 as a power supplying electrode and inner lead 40 as a power supplying connection portion to join the inner lead 40 with the bump 23. However, as conceded by the Office Action (page 4), *Terui* does not teach or suggest a dummy electrode to which electricity is not supplied or a dummy electrode connecting portion being conductively bonded to such a dummy electrode.

Kyoshima relates to a liquid jet recording head having dummy heaters 202 arranged on both sides of heaters 200. The dummy heaters are so provided to prevent the edge effect of the etching from extending to the heaters 200 (col. 3, lines 13-17), that is, to ensure that

the heaters that are used for discharge have heat generating resistive layers of uniform width (see col. 1, lines 30-59; col. 4, lines 27-33; Figs. 1 and 7). Although *Kyoshima*'s dummy heaters may contain dummy electrodes, nothing in *Kyoshima* would teach or suggest a dummy electrode connecting portion being conductively bonded to a dummy electrode to which electricity is not supplied.

Moreover, *Kyoshima*'s dummy heaters, which may contain dummy electrodes, correspond to *Terui*'s heaters 22, not to *Terui*'s electrode pads/bumps 23. Therefore, even if it were permissible to combine *Kyoshima* with *Terui*, the resulting combination would not yield Applicant's invention as set forth in Claim 1. Such a combination would provide *Terui*'s device wherein some of the heaters 22 were replaced by dummy heaters, not wherein some of the electrode pads/bumps 23 were replaced with dummy electrodes. Thus, the device provided by such a combination would correspond to a device having elements for generating energy for ejecting liquid, dummy elements for generating energy for ejecting liquid, and power supplying electrodes for supplying electric power to the elements for generating energy for ejecting liquid, but no dummy electrodes corresponding to the power supplying electrodes for supplying electric power to the elements for generating energy for ejecting liquid.

Furthermore, in the device provided by such a combination, even if dummy electrode connecting portions were conductively bonded to the dummy electrodes, the dummy electrode connecting portions would not form reinforcement portions by bonding the dummy electrode connecting portions to the dummy electrodes so as to hold a tape-like frame member to a base, as recited in Claim 1. Assuming for the sake of argument that the base of Claim 1 corresponds to chip 20 and the frame member of Claim 1 corresponds to a structure including

lead 40 and tape 41, it is seen from *Terui*'s figures that, if *Kyoshima*'s dummy electrodes were inserted into *Terui*'s device in place some of *Terui*'s heaters 22, these dummy electrodes would not be in a position to hold together element 20 and elements 40/41, because elements 40/41 do not extend to heaters 22. Accordingly, such a combination of *Terui* and *Kyoshima* would fail to meet yet another limitation of Claim 1.

In conclusion, Applicant submits that neither *Terui* nor *Kyoshima*, whether taken singly or in combination (even assuming, for the sake of argument, that such combination were permissible), would contain all of the elements of independent Claim 1. Accordingly, that Claim is believed allowable over those references. Since independent Claim 9 recites features similar or identical to those recited in Claim 1, Claim 9 is also believed allowable over the cited references.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicant's opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein. Those claims are therefore believed patentable over the art of record.

The other claims presented for examination are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each of these dependent claims is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

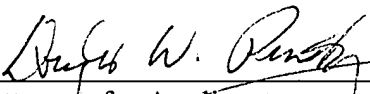
Applicant submits that this Amendment After Final Rejection clearly places the subject application in condition for allowance. This Amendment was not presented earlier,

because Applicant believed that the prior Amendment placed the subject application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of the instant Amendment, as an earnest attempt to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues, is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



Attorney for Applicant
Douglas W. Pinsky
Registration No. 46,994

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3801
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200